

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

CoC Bi-Monthly Meeting

January 30, 2018 10:00AM to 12:00PM

US Steel Tower

600 Grant St, Pittsburgh 15219

Purpose: The Homeless Advisory Board (HAB) is a public/private partnership formed to assist and recommend to Allegheny County, the City of Pittsburgh, the City of McKeesport and the Municipality of Penn Hills on public policy, programs, activities, data and all other efforts that will eliminate homelessness and improve the wellbeing of persons and families who are homeless.

HAB Members*

Frank Aggazio, ACHA (P)

Meg Balsamico, Penn Hills (P)

Caster Binion, HACP

Diana Bucco, Buhl

Jerry Cafardi, DCP (P)

Tom Cummings, URA (P)

Sean DeYoung, PATF (P)

Jane Downing, Pittsburgh Foundation (P)

Marlon Ferguson, Veterans Place

Pete Giacalone, WPIC (P)

Abigail Horn, ACDHS (P)

Anna Kudrov, Pgh Police (P)

Joe Lagana, HCEF

John Lovelace, UPMC (P)

Lenny Prewitt, Familylinks (P)

Chris Roach, OSN (P)

Adrienne Walnoha, CHS (P)

Bethany Wingerson, Center for Victims

Guest Attendees

Liz Daniels-Totten, City of Pgh

Laura Drogoski, City of Pgh

Rob Eamigh, DHS

Amber Farr, Buhl Foundation

Garletta Germany, DHS

Keith Giles, First Step Recovery

Andy Halfhill, DHS

Chuck Keenan, DHS

Tammie Krepp, Sisters Place

Terri Laver, DHS

Stephanie Meyer, DHS

Keenon Mikell, First Step Recovery

Janice Palucis, DHS

Christy Pietryga, VLP

Leah Rainey, DHS

Richard Rapp

Trish Romano, CHS

Megan Rose, United Way

Kelly Russell, City of Pgh

Sally Stadelman, City of Pgh

Eldolia Weir, HACP

Kellie Wild, EECM

Caroline Woodward, Bethlehem Haven

*(P) indicates that the HAB member participated in the meeting.

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

Minutes

1. Welcome & Review of Meeting Minutes—John Lovelace

- November Meeting Minutes were approved.

2. Governance Charter Review—John Lovelace

In preparation for the annual review of the Governance Charter, a public comment period was open through November 2017. In addition, the Executive Committee did a review, and ideas for revisions were discussed during the November meeting. Based on these reviews and discussions, the following revisions were drafted into the Governance Charter:

- Use of person first language
- Use of gender neutral pronouns
- Clean up references to CoC Analysis and Planning Committee (previously referred to as CoC Program Committee)
- Streamlined conflict of interest section by reorganizing for clarity and adding:
 - Rule to limit participation on evaluation committees to only those without a conflict of interest—as such, no one affiliated with an agency applying for the funding can serve
 - Updated Conflict of Interest form, to be signed by all HAB members
- Removed examples of “Collaborating Groups” as HAB is looking to collaborate across initiatives and not limit to previously identified groups

The revisions to the Governance Charter were approved unanimously.

Mr. Lovelace went on to note that at the November meeting, the HAB voted to approve the establishment of a Provider Committee and the ability for the election of a Provider Representative to serve on the HAB. Prior to establishing that update in the Governance Charter, the Committee has been asked to develop and document its structure and operations. The groups proposal is intended to include: Committee’s roles and responsibilities, definition of participating organizations process of leadership selection, definition of quorum and majority, and operating rules (e.g., how votes are taken, rotation of HAB representative). The group is scheduled to meet again on February 21st and March 14th, and all providers are encouraged to attend and participate.

3. HAB Membership—John Lovelace

Mr. Lovelace provided updates on the membership of HAB, explaining that Adrienne Walnoha and Linda Kilderry were stepping down. Amber Farr, Director of One Northside, was selected to complete the remaining year of Ms. Walnoha’s term, and Richard Rapp, a community member who has been very active in the CoC, was selected to complete the remaining two years of Ms. Kilderry’s term. Ms. Farr and Mr. Rapp will both be able to seek a second term (of three years) at the end of these initial terms.

Mr. Lovelace then presented the slate of nominees being put forth for the annual membership period. Fourteen nominations were received for seven available seats. The Executive Committee selected the slate, comprised of five current members seeking a second term (Frank Aggazio, Meg Balsamico, Jerry Cafardi, Tom Cummings, and Abby Horn) and two new members (Laura Drogowski from the Office of the Mayor, City of Pittsburgh, and a Provider Representative, as voted on by the pending Provider Committee).

The HAB membership slate was approved unanimously.

Mr. Lovelace continued with the presentation of Officer nominees. Mr. Lovelace was seeking a second term as Chair, Jane Downing was seeking a second term as Secretary, and Chris Roach was

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

seeking an initial term as Vice Chair.

The Officers were approved unanimously.

4. Infrastructure Organization Update—Abby Horn

Ms. Horn provided the following updates from DHS:

- The HUD CoC Program Funding Award was announced on January 22, 2018. Everything put forward by the CoC, other than bonus projects, was funded, totally \$17.8 million. These project awards include HMIS, Link, and Planning Grant awards, as well as the two expansion projects proposed using reallocated funds. Reasons for not awarding bonus funds were not provided.
- The annual Point-In-Time (PIT) Count was occurring.
- DHS has been working with the CoC Analysis and Planning Committee on the development of the 2018 evaluation tool and process.
- For the second year, HUD has released a NOFA for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project, that the CoC will be applying for. HUD will be selecting up to eleven communities, and the project represents a great opportunity to increase and support the work around youth homelessness.
- National Human Services Data Consortium is coming to Pittsburgh April 18-19. The focus of the conference is HMIS and data. With it occurring in Pittsburgh, the CoC has an opportunity to showcase our work, including planning activities the day before the conference agenda begins, and Allegheny County will be well represented within the agenda. Potential presentations include: an overview of the CoC and out operations, Erin Dalton speaking around the DHS Data Warehouse and Predictive Analytics, Jessica McKown presenting on performance data and data quality, and Rachel Rue presenting on analysis and tool development around family homelessness.

5. Committee Updates

CoC Analysis and Planning Committee—Pete Giacalone

Amy Snider has left ACTION-Housing and Pete Giacalone has agreed to serve as the HAB Co-Chair on the Committee, along with Kelly Russell, Senior Planner/Labor Compliance Officer at the City of Pittsburgh Office of Management and Budget as the CoC Co-Chair of the Committee.

- The Committee is working to finalize the recommendations for the 2018 evaluation and ranking tool, and is seeking to share the proposal in March.
- The Committee developed a Satisfaction Survey that is currently being piloted. The intent is to conduct and assess the pilot, and if successful, expectations is to seek conducting the survey annually with clients in PSH, and at exit for other programs.

Communication and Education—Sean DeYoung

Moving forward, the Committee will spend some time drafting a communication plan as part of the Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Otherwise, the group has been continuing community events and communication efforts to raise awareness:

- The Committee's website (onedayaway.info) continues to grow, and includes a question and answer blog that currently has over 100 questions answered.
- The Committee organized a walk leading up to the vigil on December 21, 2017, which stopped at six different churches to hear briefly from each on the services they provide. Next year the walk will be organized with additional lead time so more outreach can be conducted.
- Walk on By is a homeless art exhibit that will be traveling to different public libraries from January through August.

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

- Participated in the Asking for Change Campaign's Soup for Change in Market Square.
- The Committee will be reengaging with StoryBurgh.

HOCC—Chris Roach

Mr. Roach reminded meeting attendees that the PIT was occurring throughout the week, and disseminated a flyer about volunteering. Volunteers would drive around in small groups and conduct canvassing in an effort to identify locations where people are living outdoors, as well as provide an avenue for connecting and communicating with community members about homelessness. He then provided an update on the work of the HOCC's three workgroups:

- **Vulnerable Populations:** Working on identifying needs of, and ways to effectively serve, women, LGBTQ, and youth.
- **Judicial:** Working on data collection to understand the need. Coordinating with Pittsburgh Police, Paramedics, Hospitals, and DHS around data collection. The intent of the workgroup broadly is to address the revolving door of clients by better understanding their needs.
- **Outskirt Communities:** Currently focusing on the Mon Valley, the workgroup is spending time in the area and seeking to understand what services, providers, and gaps exist.

6. Community Strategic Plan—Jane Downing

Jane Downing noted that there has been movement across Strategic Plan recommendations. The following updated were provided:

- *Year-round Shelter:* DHS has taken the lead and has established a planning group to design the shelter, both programmatically and in terms of brick and mortar. Pittsburgh Mercy will operate the shelter, being selected through the RFP process.
- *Housing Navigator:* A number of efforts are underway that tie into and/or inform how a centralize housing navigator may be used within the system. The Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania is working around landlord engagement, ACTION-Housing is supporting people with disabilities, and DHS is working to RRH providers to identify leads around housing searches. With multiple efforts underway a key point right now is to coordinate efforts and collaborate on a plan forward together. As such, if you are involved in anything around affordable housing and are not part of the working froup, please contact Abby Horn.
- *School Support:* Schools have been required to have homeless liaisons to identify students who might be literally homeless or doubling up; their numbers are about three-times bigger than what HUD system counts and there has always been a disconnect between Schools and HUD in terms of definitions. Regardless of that, the Schools can serve as an important early warning system, and if we could mobilize communities around the schools to help them with interventions, we will maybe prevent people from having housing instability. One of the additions to ESSA was saying schools are responsible for identifying youth, including young people aging out of foster care. Because the HUD system doesn't count youth until 18, the onerous is put onto schools, and of course no money is attached to these responsibilities, so coordinate is of paramount importance. As such, a few areas of activity:
 - Address issues about credit for full or partial course work before school moving
 - Transportation to get youth to school of origin, as well as access to after school activities

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

- Pilot program between PPS and Woodland Hills and a Charter School to demonstrate collaboration of transportation and cost effectiveness.
- Legal rights to access housing, shelter, and services.
- *Access to Affordable Housing:* Ms. Downing identified the issues around access to affordable housing as much broader than some of the other strategic plan initiatives, and sought guidance from the HAB and meeting participants on how to best move forward on the recommendation. She noted that within the homeless system, LHOT seems like the appropriate vehicle and logical lead entity. The expectation cannot be for them to solve the issue alone, but instead have them serve as a coordination point to help focus the direction. Ms. Downing also identified a key coordination point may be around the Housing Opportunity Fund that the URA will implementing, with a number of potential focus points: ensuring there are provisions for use of funds for permanent housing and allocations to lowest income group; set aside funding for naturally occurring affordable housing (e.g., units in neighborhoods that have low rental prices and a push to preserve and perhaps rehab units); analyze site policies for housing to help locate near neighborhoods of opportunity.
 - Tom Cummings reported that the Housing Opportunity Fund is now funding by City Council at \$10million, from transfer taxes. There will be an Advisory Committee, which be at the heart of setting policy recommendations. The URA is the Administrative Entity, but the Mayor will be appointing Committee members, who will then be approved by City Council. The Committee will be made up of seventeen members, with one designated as a homeless representative.
 - Chuck Keenan noted that the LHOT discussed this at their January meeting and are willing to take on the role of logistical lead within the homeless system.
 - Laura Drogowski and Chris Roach also spoke regarding the Mayor's One Pittsburgh Initiative, which is aimed to address the basic rights of City residents, including clean air, water, and affordable housing. The Initiative has a number of different subcommittees, composed of experts from the field. The intent is not to reinvent the wheel, and rather to recognize where efforts to build off each other, including the HAB's strategic plan. One Pittsburgh is a plan for 2030 and the Mayor's Office is committed to finding resources to expand capacity.

7. Public Comment

- Mr. Lovelace noted the passing of Nancy Dunkis, who has served as the CoC Analysis and Planning Co-Chair and had been an active member of the CoC for many years.
- Mr. Lovelace also reported on a number of community updates:
 - UPMC *for You* has reserves and will invest in a minority led real estate company to support gentrifying in place, which involves the purchasing of homes in up and coming areas and renovating the homes with the intent of people who are living there to stay.
 - Bethlehem Haven is rebuilding their respite program, which provides shelter and care for individuals with medical complications who cannot stay in the hospital but need a safe location to reside until healthy. The rebuild is an opportunity for nicer space, as well as the expansion from 10 to 29 beds. AGH and UPMC are collaborating to fund the medical components necessary.
 - Preliminary discussions are occurring with Medicaid colleagues in Ohio around the prospect of HUD Envision Center. These centers are intended to create opportunities out of poverty, targeting those in subsidized housing. The purpose is to provide a physical to align housing a service supports.
- Ms. Drogowski announced the passing of Ron Johnson, who was a case manager with

Allegheny County Homeless Advisory Board

Prevention Point Pittsburgh and had a wonderful aptitude for bridging communities.

Next CoC Meeting

Tuesday, March 27, 2018—10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Human Services Building One Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh